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OMNIS FERET OMNIA TELLUS.

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Extracts from Lord Somerville's Essay on Sheep.

Continued from page 64.

No desire of change, or love of innovation, led me to abandon the long woolled sheep of my own neighbourhood, the Bampton breed dashed with the new Leicester; an undoubted improvement was visible from the introduction of the new Leicester; but there was a prejudice so strong among our butchers against the latter breed, that we were compelled to look to Bristol market for purchasers, at the distance of fifty miles from home. This stock continued to decrease in size considerably, in spite of all attempts, consistent with profit, to maintain it, notwithstanding fresh rams were three times brought from Leicestershire in the twelve years these sheep were in my possession; the loss of size in each four years, amounted nearly to five pounds per quarter. It will naturally be asked what sort of poor hungry soil this must have been, which could not maintain such sheep? It was the vale of Taunton, proverbially known to be one of the most fertile spots in this kingdom, and much of the grass land, in which these sheep were depastured, was equal in strength to any in the vale.

A man must be blind who could withstand such evidence as this. Nature pointed out that the stock was too coarse in quality, or our climate unfit, it matters not which: the fact was plainly marked, and it was merely an act of common prudence to follow her dictates.

These sheep were sold; and the same land, which carried forty-five breeding ewes was immediately

stocked with one hundred and fifty Ryelands in their stead. The neighbours said they would all be starved; the winter was severe, but the ewes maintained themselves moderately well, and their lambs, at weaning time, were in the very best order. The ewes were depastured on the high lands, west of the Vale of Taunton, during the succeeding summer, at the rate of ten per acre, and came back into the Vale in good store state. One lot of these two-tooth sheep was bought by a farmer in the neighbourhood, and put in turnips; between Candlemas and Lady-day they were all killed; and on an average they turned out more pounds of rough fat than they were pounds per quarter. Land of the Vale of Taunton might have supported coarse-woolled sheep in size, had they been pushed in first year's grass, or buried in red clover up to their knees, and the refuse mown afterwards for hay; but this was buying a good thing too dear; it is not the size of individual sheep, but the quantity of good meat and wool per acre which must enrich the farmer, and feed the public; and we wish to impress him with the conviction, that no breeds of sheep should be carried into districts ill adapted, both as to soil and climate, to receive them; that, in exertion to improve the carcass, he should not forget there is such an article as wool; and that the breed of sheep which, on any given quantity of land, carries for a continuance the most wool, as well as flesh, and both of the highest quality, is that breed to be preferred, of whatever description it may be, or from whatever country it may come.

It is to be lamented that we have been such slaves to size, and that the eye can hardly resist it. A medium is most desirable; but, if extremes are to be admitted, without a doubt the small sheep, fine in its grain, is a more marketable commodity. The rich will have it, because its quality is superior; in short because it eats better; the poor man will find its joints more adapted to the strength of his purse; and the dearer meat is to be, the more this argument applies; for legs and shoulders of mutton can-

not conveniently be cut, and retailed in pieces. There remains, then, but the manufacturer, the mechanic, and the middle class of housekeepers, to prefer coarse-grained meat. So we reasoned when we first sent this Ryeland mutton to market; but these were the very people who greedily bought it at a penny per pound advance in price, and that too in a manufacturing district. But we are told, that sailors, colliers, and keelmen, are sure customers for these over-fat joints; so they are, and long may they enjoy them! Fresh meat is fresh meat to a man coming from sea; but if he stays long in harbour, and were once to break pale, and get a taste of better mutton, perhaps it would be no easy matter to bring him back again.

We are told, too, that coarse fat mutton is best for salting; mutton is not at all well suited to this purpose; beef and pork take salt better. If men are to be kept on salt meat, be it so; if they are to live on mutton, let that be good in quality. One of the first cutting butchers in London has often been heard to say, that he could not afford to buy fat coarse-grained sheep; for that, besides the loss in spine fat, which he was obliged to cut from roasting joints, there was not lean enough to support the fat, which therefore roasted away; and that so long as meat bears a better price than tallow, so long he must deal in South Downs, and sheep of that description.

In pursuance of the object stated in the commencement of this Essay, the improvement of the fleece of our Short-Woolled Sheep, the author, in the spring of 1802, made a voyage to Spain, for the purpose of bringing home a flock of Spanish sheep. This attempt is not easily accomplished at any time, but is more than commonly difficult in a time of war. It was an object, not only to attain the sheep themselves, but the whole system of management adopted by those who had the care of these flocks in Spain. In both these particulars, the author has been fortunate enough to succeed. The sheep were selected from a Trashumante, or travelling Merina

contains is not so thoroughly ripened; hence the young plant must be weaker; Whereas, old seed lies a considerable space of time in the ground before it germinates; takes a stronger hold of it: the flower by which the young plant is at first sustained is in more perfect state; and the plant itself being stronger is consequently less liable to disease. In men and other animals, gradual growth is a great sign of health and longevity; and why should not the same principle extend to vegetables? It is observed, that the fine thin skinned American wheat, is very apt to suffer by the mildew, owing it is supposed, to the same circumstances, of early or too rapid germination.

It is probable, that the practice of using young seed, might be introduced in times of scarcity, when the high price tempted the farmer to dispose of the whole of his old stock. Its speedily appearing above ground, might be an argument in its favor adverting to the after consequences, which might not be observed at the time, or attributed to other causes. I am informed, that a Mr. French of Ballirica, who farms in the hundreds of Essex, constantly uses old wheat; in that respect imitating the example of his father, who was led to the practice by finding that old seed was in general cheaper than new. It is said, neither he, nor his son, ever had smutted wheat; and their crops have always been remarkably good. In their practice, provided the seed was sound and sweet, size or bulk was not much regarded; age being the principal object attended to.

These observations are made for the purpose of calling the attention of farmers to so interesting a subject of inquiry. It is to be hoped, that many experiments will be tried, in various parts of the country, for the purpose of ascertaining an important fact, whether new or old seed ought to be preferred, and the grounds thereof.

It would be of great use to ascertain, 1st. Whether the wheat should be preserved in straw or in sacks. 2d. Whether young seed if it must be used, might not be improved, by being gently kiln dried so as not to hurt the germ; by this practice, the grain might be consoli-

orate the soil; being in this respect equal to turnips; and, in general, pay the owner of the land much better.

Some persons have objected to the general cultivation of potatoes, from the apprehension of wanting a market; but while they are retailed out at two shillings and six pence, or even at two shillings a bushel, (and it is very rarely that we can purchase them lower) this apprehension will be groundless.

Add to this, that potatoes may be very profitably used as food for cattle and hogs. No food is better for rearing and fattening the latter. Cows and oxen will also eat them freely, and they are more easily preserved from frost than turnips; hence they would prove an excellent succedaneum at the season when spring food is most wanted.

If potatoes were introduced regularly in the farmer's course of crops, on light good soils, great advantages would ensue. He need not be at the trouble and expence of having them dug up clean. Let him only take up the best part, and then turn his swine in: they will gather and fatten on the rest, and repay their value in the manure they leave behind them.

Potatoes grow best in a soil that is loose and deep, where the swelling of the roots meet the least obstruction, and where they draw the greatest nourishment most easily. On this account, where the quantity intended to be raised is small, digging is preferable to ploughing. But if the land be ploughed deep, and well pulverized, success need not be doubted. They ought to be planted in lines, eighteen inches apart, and at twelve or fourteen inches distance in each line or row. This will give opportunity for earthing them up with the horse-hoe while young, which will greatly promote their fertility. If the horse-hoe is not intended to be used, plant them a foot square, and earth them up with hand-hoes several times, which, although more expensive, will repay the cost.

Care should, however, be taken, in the latter hoeings especially, not to go too near the plants, lest you cut the

Extract of a Letter from the same Gentleman, on Vegetable Materials for making Paper.

For some time past, among other pursuits, during my leisure hours, I have tried a variety of experiments respecting the various and least expensive articles from which paper can be made; and, partly with a view to this, I have travelled through the greater part of Scotland, England and Ireland. The result of my experiments and observations is, that by far the cheapest and most ready articles from which paper can be made are refuse of hemp and flax; and the hempen particles of the hemp and bean plant.

It is a fact, that about the generality of mills for beating and dressing hemp and flax, a large portion, in some inland places, amounting to nearly one half what is carried thither, is either left there to rot under the name of refuse, or thrown away as of no use; because too rough and short for being spun or converted into cloth. Now, from the experiment I have tried, I have uniformly found, that though too rough and short for being converted into cloth, even of the coarsest kind, the refuse of hemp and flax, on being beat and shaken so as to separate the strawy from the rough stringy particles, which can be done in a few minutes by a mill driven by wind, water, steam, or even by an old blind horse, becomes thereby as pliable and as useful for making paper, as the longest and what is reckoned the most valuable part of the plant, after it has been converted into cloth and worn for years.

In its natural state, it is true, the refuse of hemp and flax is generally of a brown and somewhat dark colour. But what of that? By the application of a little oil of vitriol and other cheap ingredients well known to every bleacher, such refuse, without being in the least injured for making paper, can in a few hours, if necessary, be made as white as the finest cambric. By being beat when wet by a mill or otherwise, it also acquires a considerable degree of whiteness.

Nor is this all; for the bine or straw of hops contains an excellent hemp for making cloth, canvas, ropes, cables and a thousand other articles; also the very best materials for making all kinds of paper. And it is a fact, that were even one half of the bine of the hops raised in the counties of Kent, Sussex and Worcester, instead of being thrown away after the hops are picked, or burnt, as is commonly done, steeped for five or six days in water, and beat in the same way as is done with hemp and flax (independent of what might be got from scarlet runners, nettles, the haum of potatoes, &c.) there would be found annually materials enough for three times the paper used in the British dominions.

While we admire the rapid progress that is making in painting, sculpture, engraving, architecture, coach building, and the elegant arts in general, one cannot help being astonished at the slow progress that is making in discoveries of the useful kind in various departments. Though it has not been attended to, nor, so far as I know, has ever been mentioned by any one, yet it is certain that according to size, every bean plant contains, from 20 to 35 filaments running up on the outside, under a thin membrane, from the root to the very top, all round; the one at each of the four corners being thicker and stronger than the rest. It is also certain that next to Chinese seagrass, in other words the material with which hooks are sometimes fixed to the ends of fishing-lines, the filaments of the bean plant are the strongest and most durable yet discovered.—These, with a little beating, rubbing and shaking, are easily separated from the strawy part, when the plant has been a few days steeped in water, or is damp, and in a state approaching to fermentation, or what is commonly called rotting.

From carefully examining the medium number of stalks or bean plants, in a square foot, in a variety of fields, and multiplying these by 4840, the square feet in an acre, and then weighing the hemp or filaments of a number of stalks, I find that there are, at a medium, about 2 cwt. of hemp on these filaments in an acre, ad-

JAMES HALL.

BOTANY.

(London Monthly Magazine for January, 1809.)

National Wealth

Mr. Oram, bookseller, at Trenton, is about republishing in a duodecimo volume in boards, at 60 cents, Chancellor Livingston's celebrated "ESSAY ON SHEEP." This treatise has been considered of such utility and importance in the state of New York, that the legislature of that state has ordered 1500 copies of it to be distributed at the public expence. We trust individual patronage will render any farther legislative provision unnecessary. If we would arrive at real independence of other nations, we must cherish the means which alone can make us so—and of these means sheep are an important and indispensable part.

WOBURN SHEEP-SHEARING.

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THIRD DAY—WEDNESDAY.

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The Company, after breakfast, repaired to the slaughter house, near Woburn Abbey, to view the carcasses of the fat wethers, shewn alive yesterday, as follow—

MR. BLISS.

LORD ONGLEY.

	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.
Carcass	92	8	Carcass	102	8
Loose Fat	10	14	Loose Fat	10	4
Fleece	7	4	Fleece	6	11

MR. RUNCIMAN.

MR. CLAYTON.

	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.
Carcass	92	7	Carcass	130	8
Loose Fat	13	15	Loose Fat	12	0
Fleece	4	6	Fleece	8	8

MR. PLATT.

MR. TREVOR.

	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.
Carcass	112	12	Carcass	85	12
Loose Fat	13	7	Loose Fat	11	12
			Fleece	4	0

The company next repaired to the park, where were exhibited an experiment with Lambert's mole Capstan draining Plough—the prize Sheep shearing—a choice collection of seeds of grasses and other agricultural plants—the process of building a wall of *pise*, or compressed earth—various implements of husbandry—a second shew of South Down Tups—and several Hereford and Devon Cattle.

About three o'clock the company repaired to the Park Farm, and sat down to an elegant dinner, his Grace (the duke of Bedford) in the chair. After which, and several appropriate toasts, his Grace rose, and proceeded to read the adjudication of the several Judges, for the different classes of his Premiums, as follows, viz.

To Mr. Bithrey, a Cup, for his 2-shear long woolled fat wether.

To Mr. John Butfield, a Cup, for his 2-shear long woolled fat wether, bred in Bedfordshire.

To R. Trevor, Esq. a Cup, for his 2-shear short woolled fat wether.

To Wm. Runciman, a Cup, for his 2-shear short woolled fat wether, bred in Bedfordshire.

To Mr. Bliss, a Cup, for his pen of long-wooled theaves. *

To Lord Ongley, a Cup, for his pen of short woolled theaves.

To Mr. Trevor, a Cup, for his pen of short woolled theaves, bred in Bedfordshire.

The judges for the long-wooled sheep, were Lord Somerville, Richard Astley, Esq. and Thomas Crook; and, for the short-wooled sheep, J. Reeves, John Elman, jun. and Henry Boys.

His Grace, on the delivery of these Cups, paid a well merited compliment to the general excellence of the sheep exhibited, and of those in particular, to which prizes had been adjudged.

A Cup was awarded and delivered to Wm. Runciman, for the best boar under two years old.

There were awarded and delivered to John Bollard, of Lidlington, 5 guineas. George Arnold, of Aspley 4 guineas. James Martin of Northill, 3 guineas. Job Arnold, of Crawley, 2 guineas. Richard Cozens, of Lidlington, 1 guinea, for their respective merits in sheep-shearing.

Twenty guineas were adjudged to Mr. Robert Salmon, for his Planting-plough and Drag; an implement which was much and very justly commended.

The Cup for the best plough was adjudged to Andrew Wilson, his Grace's bailiff at the Park Farm; and two guineas to John Green the holder of it.

Thirty guineas were delivered to Mr. William Runciman, of Birchmoor Farm, for the most satisfactory comparisons of the drill and broad-cast culture of corn, on ten acres of land.

* Ewe lambs of the first year.

The premiums to careful shepherds were next distributed, as follows, viz.

5 gs. to J. Sherwood, for raising 252 lambs from 205 ewes.		
4 gs. to—Clark,	288	236
3 gs. to J. Holland,	735	613
2 gs. to—Nottingham,	581	521
1 g to—	244	236

His Grace then lamented, that a third year had elapsed, without his having received any claims for the fifty guineas he had offered, for making ten acres, at the least, of land, in Bedfordshire, into water-meadow; especially, as they had only to view his meadows here, at Priestley and at Maulden, to be convinced of its immense advantages. As they might also be, by consulting Mr. Coke and Mr. Reeves of Norfolk, who were present. He should, however, continue to offer it for one year more; and should make no other alteration in his premiums, for next year, than omitting that for comparative trials of drill and broad cast husbandry, the trials having proved in favour of the drill uniformly.

The printed conditions of premiums for next year, were then distributed to the company, as also a statement of drilled and broad-cast husbandry, by Messrs. Batcheldors, of Lidlington, in Bedfordshire.

His Grace concluded by remarking, that his objects in these Meetings were general improvement, and that of Bedfordshire Husbandry in particular; which he lamented much to say, was still disgracefully behind that of many other counties, a disgrace which he earnestly exhorted the company present, to do their best to wipe away, as speedily as possible. His grace then gave,

“Mr. Coke, and Norfolk Husbandry.”

Mr. Coke rose and said, that called on as he was to acknowledge the compliment paid to him, and to Norfolk Farming; he lamented that he could not sit down without joining in the charge brought by their Noble Host, against much of the husbandry of Bedfordshire, where little improvement was certainly visible. Often as he

had repeated his invitation in that room, to the Bedfordshire farmers, to come down to Holkham, and view the system here and on the farms of his tenants, few had availed themselves of it. He was proud to state, that some of his tenants, who were formerly as backward as themselves, and as prejudiced in favour of old practices as themselves, Mr. Reeves in particular, who was present, were now bright examples of good management. Norfolk sheep continued Mr. Coke. have given place to Mr. Elman's improved South-down sheep, and drilling has become general, without any instances of farmers going back from Downs to Norfolk sheep, or from drilling to broad-cast corn, and by which practice the earlock, and other disgraceful weeds of Bedfordshire, ought to be got rid of. Mr. Coke concluded by observing, that Sir Joseph Banks, by his exertions in favour of Spanish sheep, had rendered a most important service to our manufactures; but do they, said he, want mutton? or can we have a fine fleece on a fat carcass? and gave,

"Sir Joseph Banks, and a fine fleece on a fat carcass."

The worthy Baronet rose, and with much animation and good humour, thanked the company, congratulating them that it was at length admitted, that improvement in wool had been effected: and said, that if the Merino carcasses were inferior, it was, because their improvement was but just begun. We have, said he, seen New Leicesters rise from nothing, and no one knows what breed; and we have seen Downs, formerly like rats in size, now rivalling any breed in the kingdom. In Spanish sheep there is as much capability as in Lincolnshires, which have risen into Bakewells, or in little rats of South-downs, which have swollen into improved Downs.

This speech was much and long applauded.

The company returned to the farm, and a sale of Park Farm stock took place, as follows:

10 South-down Theaves	41 guineas,	Rev.——Sims.
10 ditto.	46	Mr. Elman.
10 ditto.	41	Mr. Morris.
10 ditto Ewes, two-shear	40	Mr. Elman.

10 ditto. three shear . . .	39	guineas	ditto.
10 ditto full mouthed . . .	31		Mr. J. Moore.
A Devon Heifer, three } years old.	20 1.2		Mr. Smith
Ditto. ditto.	26		ditto
A Hereford Cow, se- } ven years old.	22 1.2		ditto.
Ditto. ditto.	22		Mr. J. Moore.
A Devon Bull, aged . . .	24		Mr. Coke.
A Hereford Bull, ditto. .	60		Mr. Smith.

The company then began to separate; some repairing to the Holkham, and others to the Beechwood Park fetes, and Hereford Agricultural Meeting.

Extracted and abridged from the London GLOBE, of June 22, 1810.

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### WOOL CARDING.

SCHOLFIELD & HOOFFMAN have lately erected a complete set of Wool Carding Machines at the Adelphi Mills, three and a half miles from Bladensburg, Prince George's County Maryland.

This mode of Carding Wool into rolls, is so generally approved, where ever it has been brought into use, that there can remain no doubt of its utility. It saves much labor and time, prepares the wool better for cloth, and by mixing it in larger quantities, renders the cloth of an even texture and uniform quality; wool of different colours may be nicely mixed—and the expence is but 10 cents per pound.

Those who send wool to such machines ought to have it assorted and washed; matty ends, dirty locks and burs must be cut off; and to every 8 or 10 pounds of wool, one pound of soft grease should be sent, together with a sheet sufficiently large to contain the rolls, which may be carried on horseback without injury, or in a cart or waggon.

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